

The interdisciplinary Research Training Group *KRITIS* ("*Critical infrastructures: Construction, Functional Crises and Protection in Cities*") at the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany, announces a

PhD position (f/m/d)

scheduled to **begin 1 October 2023**. The position is limited to 2 years (until 30 September 2025) and comprises 65% of full-time employment.

In the Research Training Group, historians, sociologists, urban and infrastructure planners, civil engineers, philosophers, political scientists, architects, and computer scientists have been working together since 2016. The successful PhD candidate will become a member of the Research Training Group *KRITIS*. The group explores the relationships between urban societies and technical infrastructures. Networked systems that supply urban regions with energy, water, communication, and transportation services and treat and dispose of waste- and stormwater have become critical systems of modern cities. Their failure, disruption, destruction or decay can trigger dramatic crises. In recent years, the vulnerability of critical infrastructures has become a controversial topic. That controversy is due to multiple external threats such as natural disasters, terrorism, warfare, and cyberattacks, and the growing complexity and increasing interdependency of infrastructure systems. You can find more information on the academic program, the activities, the first results, and the current members on [our website](#).

Focus of the PhD and requirements:

The objective of the advertised position is to develop an independent research contribution to the urban sociology and/or urban governance of critical infrastructures. The requirement for the position is an excellent academic degree in a social sciences discipline (diploma, master's degree or equivalent) with a focus on urban/spatial/cultural sociology, urban/spatial development or governance research. Moreover, a very good knowledge of qualitative methods of empirical social research is essential. As the regular joint activities of *KRITIS* take place in German and English, a good command of the English language and willingness to acquire a good knowledge of German are also expected. International experience and willingness to collaborate within interdisciplinary teams are desirable.

The PhD thesis may be written in German or English. It will be supervised by [Professor Sybille Frank](#) (Urban Sociology and Sociology of Space, TU Darmstadt). The successful candidate is expected to take up her/his residence in the Frankfurt/Rhine-Main region, and will be employed at the Institute of Sociology at the TU Darmstadt (near Frankfurt). It is possible to write the dissertation within the framework of a Joint Doctorate with Utrecht University.

KRITIS offers a vibrant research environment for PhD candidates who want to complete their dissertations in an innovative, international program. In addition to contributing to a better understanding of critical infrastructures, we expect the selected PhD candidate to engage with the academic concepts of the research program within interdisciplinary teams. A high level of commitment for exchange among each other and for joint scientific activities is expected. In the Research Training Group, currently twelve doctoral research fellows from different disciplines collaborate across disciplinary boundaries. Collaboration is facilitated through joint seminars, colloquia, and workshops.

The doctoral research fellows in *KRITIS* work in common areas with dedicated office space, and have the support of participating professors and their own research support office. PhD candidates benefit

from a wide range of support services for their research. These include group/individual coaching, writing workshops, presentation training or specific support offers for women. Within the framework of the available financial resources, staying abroad financed over several months will be supported. *KRITIS* collaborates with four foreign research institutes and with various societal partners.

Your application:

Please submit your application as soon as possible in English or German to the following email address (compressed in one file, max. 6 MB): frank@ifs.tu-darmstadt.de. Please enclose the following documents: (1) a motivation letter, (2) a CV with information on academic qualifications, language skills and international experience, (3) scanned copies of academic credentials, and (4) a short proposal for your planned PhD project (2-4 pages), taking into account the academic program of *KRITIS*. Potential candidates may contact [Professor Sybille Frank](#) for advice on possible PhD thesis topics and research designs before submitting their application. We look forward to receiving your application!